



VIRGINIA ABC OVERVIEW

Virginia ABC—made up of a team of nearly 3,500 statewide employees—is a leading revenue producer for Virginia and a source of future economic growth and innovation for the state. The profits that Virginia ABC contributes—collected from sales of distilled spirits at ABC stores, taxes collected on beer and wine sales, violation penalties and license fees—provide much needed funding for use in programs across all secretariats, thus benefiting citizens in all areas of the state whether or not they choose to drink alcoholic beverages. Since its establishment in 1934, Virginia ABC has contributed \$8.6 billion to the Commonwealth’s general fund, which supports major education, health and transportation initiatives, as well as other state-funded operations.

Beyond the sale of alcohol, the breadth and scope of the agency’s education and prevention initiatives is at an all-time high. Virginia ABC leads the Commonwealth in alcohol prevention and public education initiatives by offering training and materials for use by licensed establishments, non-profits, faith-based and community groups and parents around the state. Agency education and prevention staff further empower Virginia citizens by developing partnerships, conducting speaking engagements and presenting programs that promote the responsible consumption of alcoholic beverages to those of age, and zero tolerance to those underage. Education and Prevention programs highlight the dangers of alcohol misuse and hazardous behaviors, such as driving under the influence (DUI), binge drinking and public drunkenness. The agency coordinates various types of grants to enhance community coalitions and promote partnerships and capacity building activities that share in the agency’s message of safety and responsibility across the lifespan.

In addition, the agency’s Bureau of Law Enforcement has a multi-faceted role that involves much more than its name suggests. It is also comprised of licensing, compliance and administrative services. Staff in those areas serve as liaisons to breweries, distilleries and wineries; inform and interact with manufacturers, importers and distributors; collect Virginia state taxes; process invoices and renewals; conduct alcohol-related training about state ABC laws; and maintain records for businesses with ABC licenses and individuals seeking licenses related to alcohol sale and consumption at private special events.

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